

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 89

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to create a task force of state and local officials and private citizens to coordinate efforts to revitalize blighted property in and around the Raleigh Springs Mall in Memphis, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, numerous municipalities are in dire need of special assistance in revitalizing areas within their boundaries that were once thriving economic hubs of activity, but are now blighted; and

WHEREAS, the revitalization of such areas would bring new jobs into the municipality and the state, spark commercial activity, increase property values, and discourage criminal activity in the area; and

WHEREAS, there are many individuals in this state who possess vast knowledge and expertise in forming joint ventures and in recruiting business to this state; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the general assembly to bring together state and local officials and private citizens having knowledge and experience in a joint effort to solve specific problems, such as the revitalization of blighted property; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body respectfully requests the Mayor of the City of Memphis to convene and chair a task force to be composed of the following officials and individuals, or their designees:

- (1) The City Mayor of the City of Memphis;
- (2) The County Mayor of Shelby County;
- (3) The Chairman of the Board of the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce;
- (4) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

- (5) The Commissioner of Revenue;
- (6) The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development;
- (7) The Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission;
- (8) The owner of the Raleigh Springs Mall;
- (9) Representatives of the largest non-profit entities located in close proximity to the Raleigh Springs Mall;
- (10) Representatives of the largest for-profit entities located in close proximity to the Raleigh Springs Mall;
- (11) Three (3) or more successful business entrepreneurs having business enterprises located in or in close proximity to the Raleigh Springs Mall; and
- (12) At least one (1) state senator and one (1) member of the house of representatives whose districts include the area encompassing the Raleigh Springs Mall.

Task force members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties in conformity with comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter, if funds are specifically provided for such reimbursement in the general appropriations act.

This body requests the task force to be convened by the Mayor of the City of Memphis within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this resolution.

The focus of the task force is to develop a revitalization plan model for the area to include, but not be limited to, economic development, job creation and growth, entrepreneurial and government utilization and opportunities, revenue growth, community beautification and economic investments.

The plan shall consider ways to encourage community involvement which may include:

- (1) Encouraging the City of Memphis and Shelby County, to partner with businesses, government and non-profit entities in new ways to utilize the space in and around the Raleigh Springs Mall for expansion needs; and
- (2) To market the area as well as recruit new commercial and non-commercial development to the area.

In developing the model, the task force is encouraged to consider tax increment financing to the extent it may be available for the area or ways to encourage current authorities organized pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 84 to consider developing the property in and around such Mall.

The task force is further requested to file a report with the governor and the chairs of the senate and house of representative state and local government committees by February 28, 2012 at which time the task force shall cease. The report should include to what extent the model developed by the task force was successful in accomplishing the goals set out in this resolution. In addition, this body encourages the members of the task force to share their insights and experience with the governor and the committees regarding the feasibility of developing a model to help other communities in similar circumstances provide revitalization to blighted areas through local and state government and business partnerships and cooperation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the City of Memphis, the County Mayor of Shelby County, the Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Revenue and Labor and Workforce Development.